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Alleged prohibition of the use of some books by local board libraries.

* 1009 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether there is any order prohibiting panchayat and district board libraries from using books written by certain particular Tamil writers, and if so, the names of the authors and the reasons for prohibiting the same?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" The member is referred to the answer to question No. 1006."

Price of rice in Visakhapatnam.

* 1010 Q.—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state what is the plan of the Government to check the rapid rise in the price of rice in Visakhapatnam district in recent months?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Government have issued instructions to all the Collectors including the Collector of Visakhapatnam to adopt one or more of the following measures to check the tendency in the rise in the price of rice in the open market :—

(1) To be on the watch to find out cases of cornering of stocks by merchants and to requisition such stocks.

(2) To open more fair price shops in areas where prices show a tendency to rise abnormally.

(3) To ensure that all fair price shops hold adequate stocks for issue to the consumers at the prescribed scale when demanded.

" The Government have also ordered that the scale of rice ration should be increased from 4 ounces to 6 ounces per adult per day in the old statutorily rationed areas of Visakhapatnam and other districts with effect from 28th June 1953.

" The Collector of Visakhapatnam has been permitted to open fair price shops in the urban areas and taluk headquarters stations also and to issue 4 ounces of rice plus 6 ounces of other grains through such shops."

Pay of surgeons in Local Fund hospitals.

* 1011 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the scale of pay of Assistant Surgeons and Surgeons working in local fund hospitals and why it is different from that of Assistant Surgeons and Surgeons in Government Hospitals?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The following are the scales of pay of Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons employed under local bodies :—

Assistant Surgeons—

Graduates : Rs. 150—10—350.

Licentiates : Rs. 100—10/2—200.

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Sub-Assistant Surgeons—
Rs. 80—5—150.

"In view of the limited finances of the local bodies, their employees are given lower scales of pay than under Government."

Harijan hostels in district headquarters.

* 1012 *Q.*—SRI P. VENKATASUBBIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to take over the management of the Harijan hostels at the district headquarters, and if so, the reasons for such a move?

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" No."

Service conditions of village officers.

* 1013 *Q.*—SRI P. VENKATASIVIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the village officers are classed as whole-time paid servants of the State or as part-time honorary servants; and

(*b*) if they are whole-time servants whether all the service rules and leave, pay and allowance, conditions as are applicable to that category of personnel apply to them also?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The village officers are not regarded as whole-time Government servants but only as part-time Government servants.

" (*b*) As they are only part-time Government servants the service rules or conditions referred to do not apply to them."

Acquisition of land for Rani's Hospital, Pudukkottai.

* 1014 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a portion of land belonging to the Pudukkottai Town-Hall Trust had been acquired by the then Government for expansion of the Rani's Hospital in Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district;

(*b*) if so, when acquired, and what extent;

(*c*) the total cost of such acquisition;

(*d*) whether the cost has been paid to the Town-Hall Trust; and

(*e*) if not, why not and when the Government propose to pay the cost of the trust?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) An extent of 186 kulis or 62 cents was acquired in 1947.

" (*c*) Rs. 12,409–14–0.